

IDEA Flow-through and Preschool Entitlement Carry-Over Policy

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B entitlement funds awarded to local education agencies (LEA) are available to LEAs for 27 months from the date of award in accordance with the Tydings Amendment, which is referenced in section 421 (20 U.S.C. 1225) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA).

The 27 months begins on the day the entitlement award is made to the LEA, which is July 1 of each fiscal year if DPI has received the LEA's application in substantially approvable form. As an example, flow-through entitlement funds that are awarded to an LEA on July 1, 2010, are available to the LEA until September 30, 2012.

LEAs that carry over funds from one fiscal year to the next must monitor spending to ensure the amount carried over is claimed within the required timeline or risk losing unspent funds.

DPI also monitors LEA spending to ensure that funds returned to the US Department of Education are kept to a minimum. This is accomplished by requiring LEAs to submit claims at least quarterly. In 2009-10, the Special Education Team initiated web-based IDEA claims to expedite the claiming process. Through the submission of quarterly claims, the Special Education Team can monitor to ensure IDEA funds are spent timely.

Note: Carry-over is not allowed on discretionary grants, which typically run from July 1 to June 30.

Note: Prior to fiscal year 2010, LEAs were required to request waivers from DPI to carry over more than 25% of the previous year's IDEA entitlement funds.

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